

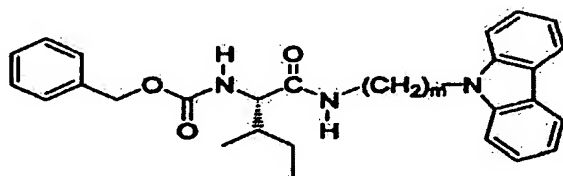
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A gelling agent ~~according to claim 1, which is composed of~~ having an isoleucine derivative having a carbazolyl group and represented by the following ~~general~~ formula (1) :

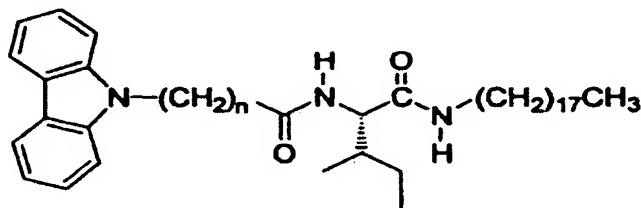
~~General~~ formula (1):



wherein m is an integer of ~~at least 6~~ 6-12.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A gelling agent ~~according to claim 1, which is composed of~~ having an isoleucine derivative having a carbazolyl group and represented by the following ~~general~~ formula (2):

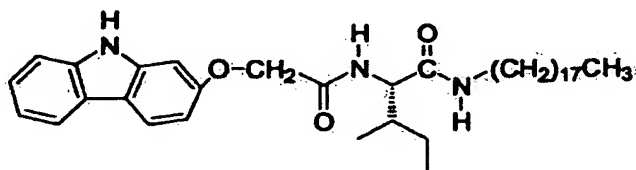
~~General~~ formula (2):



wherein n is an integer of ~~at least 1~~ 1-6.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~The A gelling agent according to claim 1, which is composed of~~ having an isoleucine derivative having a carbazolyl group and represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1):

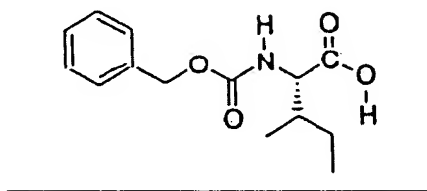


Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a gelling agent, which comprises:

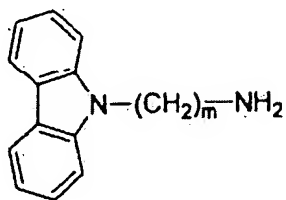
reacting an isoleucine derivative having a skeleton represented by the following formula [(2)] (a) with a compound having a carbazolyl group represented by formula (b) in the presence of dichloromethane and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride to obtain the gelling agent according to claim 2 ~~an isoleucine derivative having a carbazolyl group.~~

~~Formula (2):~~

Formula (a):



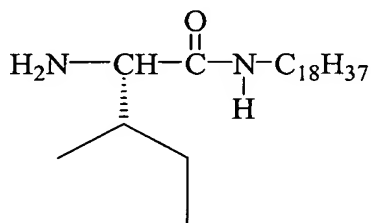
Formula (b):



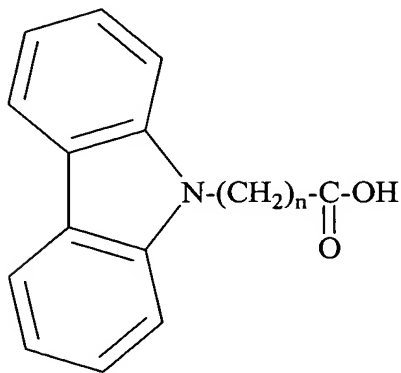
wherein m is an integer of 6-12.

Claim 6 (New): A method for producing a gelling agent, which comprises:
reacting an isoleucine derivative represented by the following formula (c) with a compound having a carbazoyl group represented by the following formula (d) in the presence of dichloromethane and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride to obtain the gelling agent according to claim 3

Formula (c):



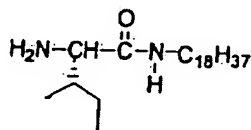
Formula (d):



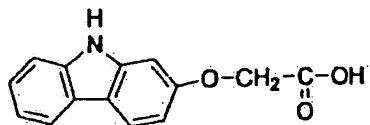
wherein n is an integer of 1-6.

Claim 7 (New): A method for producing a gelling agent, which comprises:
reacting an isoleucine derivative represented by the following formula (e) with a compound having a carbazolyl group represented by the following formula (f) in the presence of dichloromethane and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride to obtain the gelling agent according to claim 4

Formula (e):



Formula (f):



Claim 8 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 2 and at least one of an organic solvent and a liquid crystal compound.

Claim 9 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 3 and at least one of an organic solvent and a liquid crystal compound.

Claim 10 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 4 and at least one of an organic solvent and a liquid crystal compound.

Claim 11 (New): The gelling agent of Claim 8, comprising at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylacetate, ethanol, methanol, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, benzene, toluene, tetrahydrofuran and N,N-dimethylformamide.

Claim 12 (New): The gelling agent of Claim 9, comprising at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylacetate, ethanol, methanol, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, benzene, toluene, tetrahydrofuran and N,N-dimethylformamide.

Claim 13 (New): The gelling agent of Claim 10, comprising at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylacetate, ethanol, methanol, acetone, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, benzene, toluene, tetrahydrofuran and N,N-dimethylformamide.

Claim 14 (New): The gelling mixture of Claim 8, comprising at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

Claim 15 (New): The gelling mixture of Claim 9, comprising at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

Claim 16 (New): The gelling mixture of Claim 10, comprising at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

Claim 17 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 2 and from 1 to 10 mass% of at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

Claim 18 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 3 and from 1 to 10 mass% of at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

Claim 19 (New): A gelling mixture comprising the gelling agent of Claim 4 and from 1 to 10 mass% of at least one liquid crystal compound selected from the group consisting of 4-pentyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-octyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 2-19 are active in the present application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-4 have been rewritten in independent form. The claims have been further amended to define the value for “m” as it appears in formula (1) and formula (2) of Claims 2 and 3. Claims 6-19 are new claims. Support for new Claims 6 and 7 is found in the original claims. Support for the amendment to Claim 5 is found in the specification. Support for new Claims 8-10 is found on page 1, lines 6-9. Support for new Claims 11-13 is found on page 10, lines 14-17. Support for new Claims 14-16 is found on page 10, lines 18-20. Support for new Claims 17-19 is found in the examples. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Independent Claim 1 is amended without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.